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stewardship to be accounted for, and no obligation of personal attendance; and in the collections of the Maryland Historical Society he might have seen the original receipts showing that the payment was made by deputy.

On page 181 he tells us that "In July [1634] the King told Baltimore that it was contrary to justice to dispossess Clayborne and his colonists of their lands." But upon examination this turns out to be a letter of the Council to Governor Harvey, containing no mention of Baltimore or Claiborne, explaining that there was no intention of invading private rights, that men "might enjoy their estates with the same freedom as they did before the recalling of the charter." Of course this did not include Claiborne, who had no grant of land from any source. In this connection he takes care to tell us that the King wrote forbidding Baltimore to molest the people on Kent Island, but omits to mention that the Privy Council afterwards explain that the letter "was grounded upon misinformation, by supposing that the said [Claiborne's] commission warranted the plantations in the Isle of Kent, which, as now appears, it did not."

I do not discuss Dr. Smith's main thesis, which he leaves, as he found it, a matter of opinion. I have no doubt that he is as fully convinced of the truth, as he is of the importance, of his own views; but I do not think his methods of reasoning likely to convince the judgment of any reader, nor do I perceive that he has added anything to the sum of human knowledge.

WILLIAM HAND BROWNE.

The Many-Sided Franklin. By PAUL LEICESTER FORD. (New York: The Century Co. 1899. Pp. xx, 516.)

THIS volume is a reprint of twelve articles, under the same title, which appeared in the *Century Magazine* during the year 1898. Persons most familiar with the life and times of Dr. Franklin and all who, less familiar with the subject, enjoy an interesting book, will wish that each chapter was longer and that there were more chapters. Mr. Ford has touched Franklin before, and very gracefully, in the well-known edition of *Poor Richard* which may be found among the "Knickerbocker Nuggets." Few men of Mr. Ford's age are so familiar with our colonial history. He has touched nothing that he has not illuminated. His edition of Jefferson's writings, and of the *Federalist*; of pamphlets and papers illustrating the period of the formation of the Constitution; his critical essays and his novels all show the hand of the master. *The Many-Sided Franklin* abounds with proof that his hand has not lost its cunning.

It is now customary to reprint magazine serials in neat and pleasing volumes, and no magazine or publishing house surpasses *The Century* in wise selection, or style of reproduction. Mr. Ford has made an interesting book, and publisher and illustrators have adequately met the demands of his theme.

Only a brave and panoplied writer would presume, in these days, to offer a new book on Franklin. Of books about him there is no end, and

the presses are ever groaning under the weight of his name. In later years, his name has been an excuse for the publication of some very questionable books, one or two of which, clothed in flaming dress, have pandered to men's lower nature. We may soon expect "The False Benjamin Franklin" in title, as we have long had it in substance. Mr. Ford is familiar with his theme. He inherits certain neighborly privileges with Franklin and now admits the world to their enjoyment. The distinctive feature of *The Many-Sided Franklin* is the wealth of its illustration, derived principally from these sources: the American Philosophical Society, founded by Franklin and the depository of the most valuable part of his manuscripts; the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Mr. Ford's library; the Library of Congress; and Mr. Ford's friends and acquaintances. If Mr. Ford had not inserted pictures and fac-similes, his work would rank high, because of its style and information; the reproduction of Franklin's surroundings imparts dramatic qualities to the book. It is a nice piece of staging.

Mr. Ford portrays Dr. Franklin as an institution, touching on his "Family Relations," "Physique: Theories and Appetites," "Education," "Religion," "Printer and Publisher," "Writer and Journalist," "Relations with the Fair Sex," "Jack of All Trades," "The Scientist," "The Humorist," "Politician and Diplomatist," and "Social Life." The illustrations are about one hundred and fifty in number, and are carefully listed. The book is the first study of Franklin not disfigured by imaginary sketches. It is a fine piece of realism. It does not bring Franklin nearer us but brings us nearer Franklin. We are suffered to look over his shoulder while he writes; to stand by his side while he experiments; to sit near while he tells a neat story; and to listen to his conversation with his friends. We peep into his ledger and watch him refine his bagatelles. If we may compliment ourselves into Ariels, and certainly Mr. Ford gives us wings, we may fly over sea and, secure in our oblivion, observe the great man in his daily life at Passy, or earlier, in Craven street. We handle Franklin's pamphlets and books; we even go to press and issue forth from Franklin's shop to inform and amuse the world. No biographer of Franklin has done us this service before. And yet, Mr. Ford does not set up as Franklin's biographer—though well he might. From the abundance of his heart he merely speaks of twelve sides of Franklin; twelve aspects of the best known man in American history.

Mr. Ford's sense of humor makes up the salt of the book. We can imagine with what relish he turns to original manuscripts and the original Franklin and with them confronts the spirit of Matthew Arnold, and another yet this side Lethe, with the paraphrase of Job. It is a most delicate humor that can see the humorous in a misapprehension of humor. Again, in the matter of the celebrated letter to Strahan, which for years has gone the rounds of biographies and text-books, as a fine example of patriotism, Mr. Ford admits all to the secret that, like some other famous letters, this was never sent. The critical scholar will find here the im-

portant part of that letter to Dr. Price apologizing for the vestige of a religious test exacted from members of assembly in Pennsylvania, under the constitution of 1776-7. He may search editions of Franklin's works in vain for this letter—one of the unique and startlingly liberal utterances of the time.

The requirements of a magazine fixed the length if not the scope of the several chapters. The effect is a spatial equivalence which doubtless would not have been observed had the work been written originally for publication in book form. The chapters though of equal length are not of equal importance, and, it may be said, not of equal strength. Mr. Ford has done better, for instance, in the chapter on Franklin as "Printer and Publisher," than as "Politician and Diplomatist." Indeed, we regret that Mr. Ford has not given us the politician and diplomatist in stronger lines. Here the book hurries over much ground with light feet. Doubtless Mr. Ford weighed the subject carefully and decided that within the limits which he set for himself he would treat Franklin's politics and diplomacy in a respectable fashion but not enter into disproportionate discussion of the prolific theme. If this was the author's decision, it is to be commended as the true one for a book of this kind. It is presumable that the author of *The Honorable Peter Sterling* would have keen insight into Franklin's notions of government, and would be able to portray in masterly style that diplomatic career as yet the most distinguished in our annals. The chapter on "Politician and Diplomatist" shows both the strength and the weakness of a book of this order; it recites the interesting incidents of great moment, in Franklin's political and diplomatic life, but with so much isolation of incidents as to fail to awaken the interest of the ill-informed reader, and to fail to satisfy the well-informed. A like criticism may be made of the chapter on Franklin as "The Scientist." Yet it should be said that an equally vivid portrayal of Franklin as scientist, politician or diplomatist will not be found, at the same time brief and comprehensive, in any other book.

Some readers of Mr. Ford will be puzzled in their attempt to associate Franklin with some of the personages whose portraits are given. Perhaps there are two dozen such personages. All the portraits are fine and with few exceptions, are of noted persons, but the brevity of the text excludes an account of their part in Franklin's life. This superabundance of illustration gives the book a touch of antiquarianism which will be far from unpleasant to critical readers; but this evident trail of the bibliophile leads us to private collections of private letters interleaved with rare old prints, and Mr. Ford is under suspicion here, of admitting the public to a glimpse of his own treasures. We miss the faces of Hume and Adam Smith, though Mr. Ford gives us the faces of Thomas and Lady Juliana Penn. Here the antiquarian puts the historian to flight, but we must remember that Mr. Ford is illustrating an epoch as well as a many-sided man.

The book is remarkably free from typographical slips. Mr. Ford may have authority for placing the church of Zion and St. Michael at

the corner of Fourth and Cheney Streets, instead of Fourth and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia. He has compiled a serviceable index and thus opened his book to good repute. It might seem, now, when Franklin has been dead over a hundred years, and the bi-centennial of his birth is drawing near, that nothing new could be said of him. Yet new material continues to come to light. Since Mr. Ford's MS. went to the *Century*, there have been discovered "certain of the correspondence between Benjamin Franklin and his relatives, together with abstracts of church records, and a pedigree chart prepared by Franklin himself, connected with the researches he was making into his family ancestry while sojourning in England as the agent of the Province of Pennsylvania." This highly interesting material has been edited by Mr. John W. Jordan, the editor of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, and reprinted by him from the magazine for April, 1899. Coming to light, as it did, while Mr. Ford was sending forth his charming serial, it adds to the interest of his theme and throws light on one side of Dr. Franklin of which no one suspected the existence. It is regretted that some part of this new matter could not have been inserted by Mr. Ford in his book. Considering *The Many-Sided Franklin* as a contribution to the bibliography of the man, now so vast, it is pleasing to be able to say that Mr. Ford has written a book which cannot fail to interest all students of human nature, all lovers of Franklin, all persons fond of investigating eighteenth-century men and manners, and all who, deeply versed in Franklin's life and writings, appreciate the authenticity and realism of an historical study.

FRANCIS NEWTON THORPE.

The Growth of the Federal Constitution in the Convention of 1787.

By WILLIAM M. MEIGS. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1899. Pp. 374.)

To the many accounts of the work of the Federal Convention at our disposal Mr. Meigs has added another which from the convenience and helpfulness of its method in the presentation of the material deserves prompt recognition as one of the most useful and instructive of the books devoted to this theme. As a mere labor-saving device its value is not easily overstated. Instead of simply paraphrasing and condensing Madison's Notes, Mr. Meigs has carefully traced the development of each clause, with a brief summary of the discussions of it, from the earliest suggestions through all its transformations until it takes its place at last in the completed constitution. Or, in other words, he has arranged our records of the debates in the order of the topics in the text of the Constitution and compressed them to perhaps one-third their present length mainly by the omission of unessentials. It is now possible to read in two or three minutes the outline of the history in the Convention of any provision in the Constitution and with the help of the dates to follow the details of the discussion in Madison's Notes with almost equal readiness. So far as I have tested the work it seems to have been done very thoroughly and accurately.